

10/690,988
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REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 9, and 11-12 are amended to more clearly define the invention and claims 18-20 are canceled. Claims 1 and 5 are independent.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to the Applicant's representative during a telephone conference on April 11, 2005. During the telephone conference, Examiner Lerner agreed that the above-amendments to claims 9, and 11-12 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Further, this Amendment cancels claims 18-20, thereby placing the present application into condition for allowance.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicants also note that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Entry of this §1.116 Amendment is proper. Since the Amendments above place the application into condition for allowance. As such, entry of this Amendment is believed proper and Applicant earnestly solicits entry. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-17, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance,

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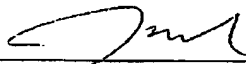
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the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

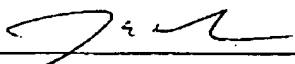
Date: 4/12/25
James E. Howard, Esq.
Registration No. 39,715

McGinn & Gibb, PLLC
8321 Old Courthouse Rd., Suite 200
Vienna, Virginia 22182
(703) 761-4100
Customer No. 21254

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this paper via facsimile, to Group Art Unit 3611, at (703) 872-9306, on April 12, 2005.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 4/12/25
James E. Howard, Esq.
Reg. No. 39,715